

SOCIOLOGY OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

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Attendance is compulsory and students' participation will be rewarded.

All the teacher's presentations (on power point) plus the readings (pdf) will be on campus virtual. For the collective readings, a randomly chosen student will conduct the debate.

Reading lists on this syllabus are not exhaustive. More texts can be found in the designated files on campus virtual.

SYLLABUS

0. How to Approach the Subject “Sociology of the Social Movements”?

Data and data interpretation. Theories and arguments. Critical reasoning.

Reading list:

Sánchez-Cuenca, “1968 Mass Protest...”

McVeigh et al, Hate crime reporting...”

Linders, “Outcomes of the abortion movement ...”

1. Introduction. What is a Social Movement?

Definitions and Common Ground. What is not a Social Movement.

Reading list:

Diani, “The Concept of Social Movement”

Rucht, “Allies, Adversaries and Third Parties”, in Snow et al.

1.1. Main Concepts in Social Movements Studies

Collective Action. Collective, Public and Common Goods. Elites, Interest Groups and Parties. Repertoires, Interests/Demands; Resources, Networks, Frames, Organizations, Cycles of Protest...

Reading list:

Goldstone, “Bridging Institutionalized and...”

Van Dyke, Protest Cycles and Party Politics...”, in Goldstone

2. Classical Theories

Collective Behaviour: Psychological-based, Psychosociological-based, Mass Society and Structural-functionalism. Marxist Theories.

Reading list:

Segre, "A Durkheimian Theory of Social Movements"

Useem, "Breakdown Theories..."

Buechler, "Strain and Breakdown Theories..."

Barker et al., "Marxism and social movements..."

3. Networks and Recruitment: Becoming an Activist

Social Networks and Ties. Digital Technologies and Diffusion. Riots and Thresholds. Case Study: The Freedom Summer Project.

Reading list:

Han, "The Ride of Paul Revere..."

Granovetter, "The Strength of Weak Ties..."

Van Dyke, "Hotbeds of Social Activism..."

Klandermans and Oegema, "Potentials, Networks, Motivations..."

Oegema and Klandermans, "Why Sympathizers don't Participate..."

Diani, "Networks and Participation..."

Klandermans, "The Demand and Supply of Participation..."", in Snow et al.

4. Modern Approaches: The Resource Mobilization Theory

Organizations, Resources and Leadership.

Reading list:

Clemens and Minkoff, "Beyond the Iron Law..."", in Snow et al.

Morris and Staggenborg, "Leadership in Social Movements", in Snow et al.

- Gamson, "Bystanders, Public Opinion, and the Media", in Snow et al.

- Staggenborg, "Consequences Professionalization of the Pro-choice Movement"

- Barkan, "Political Trials and Resource Mobilization: Litigation in Courts"

- Cress and Snow, "Resources and the Homeless Movement"

4.1. Rationality and the Social Movements

Methodological Individualism. Condorcet's Paradox. Arrow's Impossibility Theorem. The Tragedy of the Commons.

Reading list:

Downs, "The Economic Theory of Political Action..."

Goldthorpe, "RAT for Sociology"

Elster, "Rationality and Emotions"

Elster, "Social Norms and Economic Theory"

4.2. The Collective Action Paradox

Olson, Public Goods, Numbers, and Incentives.

Reading list:

Ethridge, "Collective Action, Public Policy..."

5. Modern Approaches: The Political Process Theory

Collective Action in Democratic Contexts. Opportunities, Organizations and Cognitive Liberation. Input and Output Political Structures.

Reading list:

Meyer, "The Concept of Political Opportunity..."

Wiltfant and MacAdam, "Costs and Risks..."

Della Porta, "Cycles of Protest..."

Goldstone, "More or Fewer Political Opportunities..."

5.1. Policing Styles

State's response to the protest. Classifications. Comparisons.

Reading list:

McCarthy et al., "Policing Disorderly Campus Protests..."

Earl et al., "Protest under Fire..."

Gillham and Marx, "Complexity and Irony in Policing..."

Mc Phail et al., "Policing Protest in the US..."

6. Modern Approaches: Social Constructivism. Emotions and Frames

Culture, Music, and Images.

Reading list:

Oliver et al., "Frames and Ideologies..."

Hauns, "Challenging Legitimacy..."

Rohlinger, "Framing the Abortion Debate"

Taylor, "Emotions and the Women's Movement"

Williams, "Politicized Religious Beliefs in the Civil Rights Movement..."

7. Global Synthesis. The Dynamics of Contention (DoC) Project

Micro, Macro and Meso Variables. Criticisms about the Academic Consensus.

Reading list:

Conversations with Tilly

Mc Adam, Tarrow and Tilly, Dynamics of Contention, Part III, Applications and conclusions

8. Modern Approaches: The New Social Movements Theory

Class Structure Changes. Information Society. Post-Materialism

Reading list:

Bruecher, "New Social Movements"
"New Social Movements. Theoretical Trends" (mimeo)
Touraine, "An Introduction to the Study of Social Movements"
Melucci, "The Symbolic Challenge..."

9. The Outcomes of Social Movements

Outcomes, Effects, Consequences? The Political Mediation Theory and the Public Opinion. Lowi's Policies. The Political Process.

Reading list:

Yamazaki, "The Impact of Nuclear Movement..."
Madestam et al., "Do Political Protests Matter..."
Giugni et al., "How Social Movements Matter..."
Bosi et al., "Introduction to Outcomes..."

10. A Movement in Flesh and Blood: the Civil Rights Movement in the United States

Reading list:

Briggs et al. "Campaign success and desegregation..."
Morris, "A Retrospective on the CVR"

If time available: More Social Movements: Women and Feminists; Gays and Lesbians; Pacifists and Environmentalists; Violent and Awkward Movements; and more...Future Trends: Mobilization? Europeanization, Transnationalization of the Protest?

ASSESSMENT

- A) 3 Readings provided by the teacher/student leading to debates in class: 30% of the final mark,
- B) 2 Multiple-choice tests: 20% of the final mark,
- C) Short research project (question, hypothesis, brief exploration of the literature...): 30% of the final mark,
- D) Final test: 20% of the final mark.
- E) Participation in class will add up to the final mark.

Failure to comply with deadlines or the guidelines exposed below, will result in missing the points related to A and C.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF READINGS/SHORT RESEARCH PROJECTS (GUIDELINES)

- Power point or any other similar format; never more than 30 minutes (not counting the subsequent debate).
- A research question/s, introduced at the beginning, should orient the presentation.
- Critical reading and analysis of the material.
- No summaries of the texts, instead common threads and topics addressed by the authors.
- Combine theoretical arguments with empirical evidence (the usage of additional evidence, whenever needed and suitable, is recommended: websites, leaflets, propaganda and electoral results, political speeches, number of demonstrations, survey data, membership rates...); relatively easy to find on the Internet.
- Finally, a tentative conclusion linked to the initial question/s will be introduced as well as questions leading to generate a debate in class (this debate will not focus on opinions but on the arguments, theoretical material and empirical evidence provided).